

AMENDMENTS

In the Specification

On page 1, under the title, please insert the following:

--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

a' This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/289,575, filed April 9, 1999, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application Serial No. 10-098841, filed April 10, 1998, and Japanese Patent Application Serial No. 10-183468, filed June 30, 1998, the contents of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.--

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-11 and 13-24.

REMARKS

Claims 1-11, and 13-24 have been canceled, and the specification has been amended to provide reference to related applications. Attached hereto is a marked up version of changes made to the specification and the claims, encaptioned "Version Marked to Show Changes Made".

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Preliminary Amendment, and favorable consideration and allowance of this application is requested.

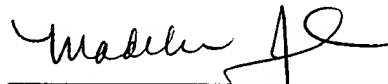
CONCLUSION

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Assistant Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing docket no. 299002048410. However, the Assistant Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 11, 2001

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VERSION MARKED TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims:

Claims 1-11 and 13-24 are cancelled.